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Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Illinois

BY MRS. HARRIET J. WALKER.

Illinois has the honor of being the only state that has endeavored to ascertain the number of Revolutionary soldiers buried in the state, giving their records of service and so far as possible, locating their places of burial. This research was started in 1911, while serving as State Historian in the Daughters of the American Revolution. At the present time over 600 soldiers are known to have been buried in the state, and 81 counties are honored as being the burial place of these men who belonged to the Nation's "Roll of Honor."

Every effort has been made to verify records, and to locate the burial places, but owing to the division of county boundaries, and the removal of soldiers to other counties, this is almost impossible. All the county histories have been studied and with success in many instances.

It is my desire to complete this research into the unwritten history of Illinois before the coming Centennial of the state, and have published in book form the results of nearly six years of work. In addition to the 600 and over, many widows applied for pensions, some of these soldiers are no doubt buried in the state. If any reader of the Journal knows of any facts regarding the burial place of any of these men, will you not send information to me in care of the Journal?

The following widows applied for pensions after 1836:

Adams County—Margaret Mooney, soldier, Bryan Mooney.

Cass County—Philadelphia McCumber, soldier, John McCumber.

Cook County—Salome Skinner, soldier, Amos Skinner.

Clinton County—Catherine Ammons, soldier, Thomas Ammons.

Edgar County—Sarah Ann Combs, soldier, William Combs.

Edgar County—Mary Mullins, soldier, James Mullins.

Effingham County—Mary Whitford, soldier, William Whitford.

Fulton County—Hannah Bivens, soldier, John Bivens.

Greene County—Mary Reiker, soldier, Leonard Reiker.

Jefferson County—Mary Hassell, soldier, Benjamin Hassell.

Knox County—Jane Benson, soldier, Levin Benson.

Lawrence County—Keziah Hughes, soldier, Henry Hughes.

Menard County—Nancy Armstrong, soldier, Robert Armstrong.

Monroe County—Martha Givens, soldier, Robert Givens.

Monroe County—Susan Barker, soldier, Zedekiah Barker.

Montgomery County—Mary Canady, soldier, John Canady.

Ogle County—Mittee Hatch, soldier, Moses Hatch.

Randolph County—Jane Wodside, soldier, Samuel Wodside.

Randolph County—Elsie Stufflebien, soldier, John Stufflebien.

Tazewell County—Elizabeth Powell, soldier, Levin H. Powell.

Starke County—Rhoda Frisbee, soldier, Philamon Frisbee.

Washington County—Elizabeth Watts, soldier, Benjamin Watts.

Wayne County—Ruth Kerr, soldier, James Kerr.

White County—Esther Cross, soldier, Zachariah Cross.

Woodford County—Catherine O'Neil, soldier, Constantine O'Neil.

EDGAR COUNTY.

Elijah Austin was from Massachusetts, where he enlisted in Capt. John King's company, Col. Mark Hopkins' regiment; he enlisted July 15, 1776, serving 16 days in Berkshire county. He came to Edgar county, Illinois and died there; is buried near North Arm church.—“*Mass. Soldiers in the Revolution.*”

Hugh Barr was from Massachusetts, where he served three days in Col. James Converse's regiment; again for three days in Capt. Francis Starr's company. He again enlisted in Sept. same year (1777) serving 16 days in Capt. Benjamin Nye's company, Col. Nathan Sparhawk's regiment, serving three months. He came to Edgar county and died there; is buried near Flemington.—“*Mass. Soldiers in the Revolution.*”

James Benson was from Talbot county, Maryland. He served as a sailor and after the war settled in Virginia. In 1824 he came with his son to Edgar county, Illinois. He is probably buried in the county, as his son removed to Jasper county in 1851.—“*County History.*”

Gurdin Burnham enlisted in Connecticut in 1775; he was on board the ship Alfred as a drummer, was captured in an engagement off Barbadoes and was exchanged in 1778. He came to Edgar county, but the place of burial is not known. He was pensioned.

Elijah Clay enlisted from Virginia in 1780; he was in the battle of Guilford Court House. He removed to Edgar county, Illinois, but his place of burial is not known. He was pensioned.

John Conrey enlisted from New York where he served in the war; was in the battle of White Plains. Coming to Illinois he settled in Edgar county at a place called Bloomfield Ledge. He died July 1834, aged 84 years and is buried in the Wynn Grave Yard. He was pensioned.

William Gannon, Sr., enlisted from North Carolina in 1780; he was in the battles of Camden, Guilford Court House, Eutaw Springs, and Hughanne, where he was wounded. He died in Edgar county, Illinois a very aged man. He was pensioned.

Ferrel Hester was from Maryland where he enlisted in 1776; he again enlisted in the North Carolina troops in 1780, and was in the battles of Camden and Owans Ford. He came to Edgar county to reside and died there an aged man. He was pensioned.

William Hurst was born in Berkeley county, Virginia, in 1755. He enlisted in Westmoreland county Pennsylvania in July 1780, in Capt. William Campbell's company, Col. Archibald Loughrey's regiment. They were to have joined George Roger Clark's expedition, but at Loughrey's Creek, they were attacked by the Indians, when both captain and colonel were killed. William Hurst was condemned to be burned, but was ransomed by McKee, a white chief, and was taken to Detroit where he was a prisoner until May, 1781, when he was taken

to a place near Montreal and was exchanged, arriving in New York about Christmas, 1781. After the war he removed to Kentucky, and from there to Indiana and in 1836 he came to Edgar county, Illinois, where he died Dec. 7, 1836. A monument was erected to his memory at Mount Carmel cemetery and inspiring dedicatory services were held. Among others who gave addresses was Prof. G. W. Brown, Superintendent of Schools, who has been most interested in gaining information regarding the soldiers buried in Edgar county. William Hurst was pensioned.

William James was from Maryland where he enlisted July 20, 1776 by Michael Burgess. He enlisted again as Corporal in the Fourth regiment, 11th company, serving from April 1777 to Nov. 1780. He removed to Edgar county, Illinois, where he died and is buried near Asher church. "*Maryland Records.*"

James Knight, Sr., enlisted from Pennsylvania in 1775, and again a second time, serving on the Frigate Randolph in 1776. His ship was in several engagements and captured three British ships. Coming to Illinois, he located in Edgar county and died on the farm where he located in Elbridge township. He was pensioned.

William Meadows was from Maryland where he served in the war, enlisting in 1776. He came to Edgar county, Illinois to live and died there; he is buried in the Prior cemetery. —"*Maryland Records.*"

William Means enlisted in South Carolina, in 1780; he was engaged in Gen. John Green's campaign of the South. He removed to Ohio, and from there to Edgar county, Illinois, locating in Paris township, in 1822, where he is probably buried. He was pensioned.

Asa Moore was from Maryland where he enlisted in 1778; he was in the battle of Stony Point. After the war he removed to Pennsylvania and from there to Edgar county, Illinois. He was pensioned.

Stephen Ogden was a soldier probably from Pennsylvania, though no record of service has been obtained. He was bur-

ied on Tompkins farm in Edgar county.—“*Family Records.*”

George Redmon was from Rowan county, North Carolina, where he enlisted, serving as a wagoner; he was in Gen. John Greene's campaign. Coming to Edgar county, Illinois, he settled in Paris township and is buried in a private graveyard about two miles south of Paris, in the Shelly Green farm. He was pensioned.

Daniel Rhodes was from Massachusetts, where he served in Capt. Samuel Payson's company, Col. John Graton's regiment, as a “Minute Man,” enlisting April 19, 1775 for 8 days; he again served for three months in Col. Joseph Read's regiment and again in Sept. 1776 in a battalion stationed at Hull. He came to Edgar county, Illinois and died there; is buried in the Ogden cemetery.—“*Mass. in the Revolution.*”

Daniel Rowell was from Connecticut, where he served in a regiment commanded by Capt. Jonathan Humphrey, Col. Samuel McClelland, in 1777. Coming to Illinois he lived in Edgar county, in Elbridge township. He was pensioned.

Wilson Tharp was from Virginia where he served in the war. He came to Edgar county, Illinois, and there applied for a pension.—“*Virginia Records.*”

John Tutwiler was from Virginia, where he served in the war. He came to Illinois and for a time resided in Coles county, but removed to Edgar county, where he died and is buried in the Kansas cemetery. He was pensioned.

Abraham Wood was born Feb. 7, 1753 in Frederick county, Maryland. He removed to North Carolina, where he enlisted, serving for six months from July, 1777, with Capts. John Johnson, James Chapman, and Col. Matthew Lock. He came to Edgar county to reside where he applied for a pension. He died Oct. 14, 1833, aged 80 years. He was pensioned.